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M. STANTON EVANS

A few more days back this column noted the peculiar blindness that afflicts some people in our country where Moscow's conspiratorial actions are concerned.

In that discussion we recounted the efforts of the Soviets to influence and guide the so-called "peace" movement in the United States, and the willful distortion of two different FBI reports about those efforts. Also mention in passing was the cover-up of data showing contacts between agents of the Soviet-controlled World Peace Council and members of the United States Congress.

This latter mind-boggling story is worth developing in detail, since it reveals both the wide-ranging nature of Soviet influence operations, extending into the very halls of Congress itself, and the kind of cover-up that is occurring on such issues to keep the facts of the case from the American people — a program of concealment that also extends into the halls of Congress.

The World Peace Council, which is the focal point of this remarkable tale, is a well-known Soviet front group, headquartered in Helsinki, Finland. It is nominally run by an Indian Communist named Romesh Chandra, but according to numerous reports from U.S. authorities including the FBI and CIA, it is controlled lock, stock and barrel by the Kremlin.

The World Peace Council is a slavish follower of the Soviet Union on everything — up to and including an endorsement of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Despite this, it likes to foist itself off as an independent voice for peace, the better to orchestrate propaganda drives against the West. Overwhelmingly,

Still another coverup on the Hill

these efforts are directed at halting U.S. weapons development, as in the "neutron bomb" campaign of 1978 and the nuclear "freeze" campaign today.

To enhance its image of independence and carry its war against America into the very heart of our nation, the WPC arranged a visit to Washington, D.C. in 1978. At meetings in the Capitol, Chandra and other agents of the Soviet KGB mingled with and were greeted by members of Congress, as well as by certain spokesmen for organized labor and members of the District of Columbia city government.

According to Chandra's report, the people hosting and meeting with the WPC delegation included William Winpisinger, head of the International Association of Machinists, Hilda Mason of the D.C. City Council, and Walter Fauntroy who represents D.C. in the Federal Legislature. Chandra further stated:

"The wide interest in the work of the WPC bureau and the dialogue was indicated by the participation in the sessions, and also in special meetings inside the U.S. Congress itself of several bureau members with several Congressmen, among which were Congressmen John

Burton, Ted Weiss, Ronald Dellums, John Conyers Jr., Don Edwards, Charles Rangel and others."

Other references to meetings with congressmen — including pictures — appear at numerous points in Chandra's report. All in all, a pretty clear portrayal of some American Congressmen hobnobbing openly with spokesmen for the world's most notorious Communist front, lending credence to its phony "peace" crusade.

What makes Chandra's account of the WPC Washington meeting especially intriguing is that it was later reproduced in a report of the House Intelligence Committee discussing Soviet "active measures" spreading Communist propaganda in this country. The Chandra document was reproduced as an exhibit showing the extent and nature of WPC activities.

The only problem was that, as it appeared in the House report, the document was crudely censored: all references to meetings with U.S. Congressmen, and the names of those Congressmen, were carefully deleted. Moreover, this was done in such a way that the reader is unable to tell that something is left out.

These strange omissions don't seem to have occurred for reasons of space, since the committee reprints more than 30 pages from a 40-page report. A more likely explanation is that the Democratic majority on the House committee was covering the tracks of its Congressional colleagues named in the report, all of whom are liberal Democrats. I have called the office of the committee and its chairman for an explanation, but have yet to get one. Unfortunately, this episode speaks all too clearly for itself.